PROPOSALS

FOR RECEIVING

SUBSCRIPTIONS,

FOR AN

APPARATUS,

By which **LETTERS** *or other* **WRITINGS** *may be copied at once, and for the* **LICENCE** *of uſing the ſaid Apparatus, an excluſive Privilege by his Majeſty's Letters Patent having been granted to the Inventor for the ſole Uſe of his Invention.*

I. BY means of this Invention, the practice of which is exceedingly eaſy, any perſon may take an exact copy of a letter or other ſheet of paper, written with common ink, in about a minute or two.

II. From the nature of the method employed, the copy thus taken muſt be a perfect reſemblance of the original writing: It is therefore not liable to the faults of thoſe copies that are tranſcribed, in which words are often from negligence, omitted, added, or altered; and hence it is much more valuable, not only as it is perfectly like the original, but alſo as it carries with it a teſtimony of its authenticity.

III. The apparatus will take up but little room, and may be fixed upon a deſk or table in a compting houſe, or upon a ſeparate mahogany ſtand, ſo as to make a ſmall, handſome piece of furniture in a gentleman's ſtudy. Proper inſtructions and drawings will be given to ſubſcribers, ſo that any cabinet-maker or carpenter may fix it in any of theſe manners which may be required.

IV. The neceſſity of keeping copies of letters of mercantile and all other buſineſs is ſufficiently known, and the conveniency and ſatisfaction of preſerving copies of letters written on other ſubjects will be readily admitted. The *utility* therefore of a method by which writings may be copied exactly and almoſt inſtantaneouſly, muſt ſtrike every perſon. To the *Merchant*, *Tradeſman*, *and Lawyer*, this Invention will ſupply the place of a clerk, in copying not only *letters*, but alſo *Invoices*,

Time, Labour & Money are ſaved, Diſpatch & Accuracy are attained & Secrecy is preſerved by this newly-invented Art of copying Letters and other Writings N°. 856. March 31st. 1780

Non plumali cannâ

Sed Arte quâdam Novâ

Bills of Parcels, and various *other* writings; the *Gentleman* will hereby have an opportunity of preſerving his more important letters with little trouble; Gentlemen who compoſe for the *Preſs*, may by this means obtain a duplicate of their works before they ſend them to the Printer; Ambaſſadors, or other perſons employed in *public affairs* may thus retain duplicates of their moſt confidential writings, without riſk of diſcovery by employing tranſcribers. In ſhort, every perſon to whom *Time*, *Labour*, and *Expence*, are valuable, and who have occaſion to write upon ſubjects in any degree intereſting, will find both benefit and pleaſure from being poſſeſſed of this invention.

V. Some perſons have ſuggeſted that improper uſes may be made of this art; but before the delivery of any apparatus, care will be taken to publiſh (in the London news papers) the means of preventing ſuch practices, and of diſcovering them when attempted. And thus perſons intereſted in paper credit, will have an opportunity of informing themſelves of the means of detecting a ſpecies of fraud, which might otherwiſe have been impoſed on them. At preſent we acquaint the public; firſt, that as only one copy can be taken, a perſon who makes uſe of this invention, will render it impoſſible for others to copy his writings: and ſecondly, that in order to ſecure others who do not chuſe to make uſe of this art, a good ink will be ſold at a reaſonable rate, the writings made with which will not be capable of being copied in this manner.

VI. Subſcriptions are taken for the patentee, by Mr. *James Woodmaſon*, Stationer, in *Leaden-hall-ſtreet*, *London*; to whom gentlemen, who chuſe to ſubſcribe, are requeſted to ſignify their intention, perſonally or by letter, mentioning their addreſs.

VII. Each ſubſcriber is to pay ſix guineas at the time of delivery, for which he will receive an *Apparatus*, *Directions*, and *Licence* to uſe the invention. Care ſhall be taken that each ſubſcriber ſhall be furniſhed in order according to the date of his ſubſcription.

The machine will be alſo applicable to other purpoſes, as the copying of muſic, taking impreſſions from copper-plates, and copying drawings, and will be ſo well executed that no ſingle machine could be made for the price required, the expectation of profit ariſing ſolely from the number of machines to be manufactured.

Mr. *Woodmaſon* will take care to acquaint the ſubſcribers when the apparatus is ready to be delivered to their order.

The apparatus will be ſufficiently large to copy a ſheet of the largeſt poſt paper. Thoſe gentlemen who require to have them of larger ſizes, as for drawings or other purpoſes, will be charged higher in proportion to the ſize.

In order to ſhew a ſpecimen of this art, the following writing, (which is done in the uſual way) and the copy taken from it are paſted below.

Time, Labour & Money are ſaved. Diſpatch
& Accuracy are attained & Secrecy is preſerved
by this newly invented Art of copying Letters
and other Writings N°. 856. March 31: 1780

Non ſolum ali cannâ
Sed Arte quadam Nomen